

FOREIGN NOTES.

Coffee as a beverage had a slight start of tea in London, for the first coffee-house was opened about the year 1662.

The great Siberian Railway is to be rebuilt before it is completed. The reason is the enormous increase in the business of the road.

Russian explorers are now busy in several sections of Siberia. Large stretches of that country are still practically unknown to Europeans.

A machine tool trust has been formed in Germany, mainly, it seems to conduct an organized campaign for the exclusion by tariff of American tools.

The railroads of Australia have never discovered that it is possible to take up tickets on the train, hence the passengers are locked in the cars to prevent any of them stealing a ride, and when they arrive at a station are hustled out through a turnstile and held for tickets.

The Berlin Museum of Ancient Musical Instruments has lately received an exact copy of a stringed instrument of the ancient Germans, named the *rotta*. The original was found in the tomb of a warrior at Tuttingen, in the Black Forest, and is assigned by archeologists to the period between the fourth and seventh centuries.

Many clocks with weights and wheels were in use in England during Chaucer's time, and most of the monasteries of the fourteenth century possessed clocks, though these were used to show the astronomical movements, as well as the passage of hours. Throughout the fifteenth century clocks were made mostly by armorers and blacksmiths, as they were constructed of iron and steel.

President Kruger maintains his domestic establishment on an allowance of \$2,000 of what is called "coffee money," out of which he also requires Mrs. Kruger to subsist on her pin money.

In Japan vaccination is compulsory and the Government makes its own lymph and issues it free of charge. Revaccination at stated periods is also rigidly enforced. Only calf lymph is used.

After a long and patient struggle the woman physician of Russia have secured a decree placing them upon an equality both socially and politically with the male physicians in the Empire.

A German scientist, has discovered that the aroma of tobacco is due to microbes, and it is said he will patent, if he can, a process for making cheap cigars smell like expensive ones.

Siberia and the Amur country possess advantages very similar to those of North America, Australia and parts of Africa.

The newest "lucky piece" is a carved ivory rabbit, not bigger than a bean, which must be carried in the palm of the hand.

The savings of the enlisted men in the British navy amount to nearly \$2,000,000 all of which is on deposit with the government.

For every million inhabitants in Russia there are only ten newspapers and journals of all sorts.

So much German beer is being sold in England that British brewers fear they will suffer by the competition.

Authentic history and biography in China embrace a period from the year 122 of our era back to the remote period 2,697 years before Christ. The historians of China embrace a succession of uninterrupted series of more than 2,400 years.

One of the masterpieces of musical clocks has just been completed for the Emperor of China, in whose palace, besides pointing out the correct time, it will play selections with a fully equipped automatic orchestra.

ALL SORTS.

The Minneapolis mills grind enough wheat to keep 15,000,000 people constantly supplied with bread.

The University of Pennsylvania has many students from South America and has issued a catalogue in Spanish.

There are different degrees of success in life, but no man can achieve any of them, high or low—he may be sure of that—without labor.

The sooner a man discovers that for whatever success he attains he must rely, not upon luck nor upon the help of others, but upon his own labor solely, the better off he will be.

Slaves women entrust their children to the care of elephants, who are careful never to hurt the little creatures, and if danger threatens the sagacious animal will curl the child up gently in his trunk and swing it up out of harm's way upon its own broad back.

Dr. August Rovogli, the Italian consul at Cincinnati, has been knighted by his sovereign, King Humbert, in recognition of his eminent services in the profession of medicine. Dr. Rovogli was graduated in Rome and subsequently received another diploma from the Royal College of Medicine of Vienna.

It is not generally known that the remains of all the Czars of Russia since Peter the Great lie in a memorial chapel built on one of the islands of the Neva. All the cenotaphs are exactly alike, each being a block of white marble without any decoration whatever. The only distinction by which one is marked in the name of the deceased Emperor.

Buddhist priests are very slack now, even playing football sometimes. Siamese football is played with a wicker ball, and the players are not allowed to touch it with their hands, being, however, allowed to use their heads, shoulders and knees. The object is not to let the ball touch the ground, and some of them are very skillful at it.

Some men spend their lives sitting on the bank waiting for a tow, while others get out into their boats and pull for themselves. And it may be here remarked that every man has a chance in this race, and no man need fear to enter; for the race is not necessarily to the man who feathers his oars the most; the bungler may win by keeping at it.

FOR WINTER WEAR.

FOX FURS BECOMING TO ELONGATED WOMEN.

Pelts of the Sliest of Animals Used to Adorn Those Who Dress to Advantage, and Some Who Do Not—White and Red Fox Furs are Most Popular.

Whatever her stature, the average woman who must have the latest thing, feels her wardrobe incomplete without a neck decoration which has the head of a fox attached. Such is the skill of the taxidermist the faces of these small creatures are fixed, not only in permanently life-like expression, but they represent varying moods. A decided tone of coquetry is imparted to a costume otherwise the most innocent and girlish by the peering of a fox's crafty face from an unexpected hiding place.



The great variety of color in fox furs makes choice of a becoming hue possible, yet economy is no object. The skins are silver, white, red, blue and gray, with grades of shades between, especially a hybrid sort, a cross between silver and red. Next to the fur, or the silver fox this cross is the most costly. The darkest skins are the choicest.

Furriers take great latitude in the naming of colors seen in pelts. The "blue" of fox fur is not the blue of millinery; it is only a shade off from gray, just an inclination toward cerulean. Next to the silver, the blue fox is the variety dearest to the afternoon feminine fancy. Specimens of dyed blue fox fur are on sale in abundance at low prices. The best furriers speak scornfully of this imitation cheap grade, assuring patrons that it wears badly and gives slight satisfaction. They keep it on sale, however, for those customers who value its softness as a frame to the face rather than its actual merit as a fur. Genuine blue fox comes from Greenland, Labrador and the Alaskan islands. Certain rare varieties are spoken of as "purple." Only a trained eye would recognize the purplish hint in the gray skin. Great boxes of white fox and white muffs are accessories to a driving or evening toilet. Occasionally some pretty woman, misinformed, makes this color and material a part of a street or matinee costume. It is too dressy for general wear. Aside from its fitness for evening and carriage use, it is adapted to many needs of children.

The white fox's home is in the extreme North, the land of perpetual snow. This little fellow's fur is especially fine and beautiful. Red fox, in color really more like the hue which most women recognize as burned orange, is peculiarly becoming to certain brunettes of clear complexion, and to blondes with reddish-yellow hair. On women of sallow complexion the red variety is seen unappetizingly. It is the red rhyard which so long has been notorious for chicken stealing. For years, in honorable death, this pestiferous animal has served as a carriage rug. Now, adopted as cloak for fair throats, his fate is better than his record warrants. The lovely gray fox comes from Virginia and the South.

This time has passed when a woman buys one set of furs and straightway calls "enough"—if she ever did. Within the memory of some of us, a woman expected certainly not more than one fur article for the neck, and one muff, each year, whatever she might have thought about it, had her preferences been consulted. In the dress plans of the contemporary mondaine, her fox collar and muff were mostly for half-season use; for spring and fall. Longer and heavier than the fur coats of previous autumns, those now worn by fastidious women able to gratify their whims will be laid aside in favor of jaunty pelt coats later. Many of the fox fur collars serve as outer garments. They cover the neck and chest, and by some unknown distributive process they lend warmth to arms and to back not protected by other wrap than the dress waist. Women who must plan for economy's sake will use their fox furs throughout the winter, smuggling a close-fitting jacket beneath them. The extravagant dresser prefers in cold weather a fur-trimmed garment to an outer coat and removable furs. Recently there was seen, worn with a severe princess dress of steel blue velvet, a deep, thick, long "whole-skin" collar of blue fox. As the trade name tells, the boa was done from the entire skin of one animal, the brush and hind legs hung below the belt line, while the head crossed the blue velvet breast of the wearer and fastened trimly.

A new mode, not likely to become common at once, since heads, paws and tails are too expensive to apply to low-priced furs, dangles the brush of the fox used for the muff, from one end of the hand-warmer. From the other side sprawl the bright-eyed head and front legs. Another attractive boa worn with a black cloth gown was made from two gray foxes, joined at the back of the neck, the heads and brushes at the ends, which fell below the waist in front, down the skirt. This season's mode of combining at least two furs comes forth in a smart little garment, which is partly cape, somewhat "stole" ends, and much rolling collar. Krivomer, Crimean Lamb, is

fitted into the neck and collar, and a beautiful gray fox, showing no evidences of the furrier's scissors, is laid upon the edge of the collar to form the shoulder cape. In this instance the head, without the tail, is used to decorate the muff. These important adjuncts of that particular animal have gone to complete the muff or collar of some other garment. It will be noted that the furriers are in conspiracy with the gown-makers to elongate the female figure, so far as lines will do it.

One of the proud boasts of the designers of fur wraps for this winter is that each garment has an individuality. It is easy to verify this statement by casual inspection. A first effort in that direction brings us upon a curious and perhaps beautiful cape. It is fashioned from the skins of two silver foxes. The heads and necks form the elbow sleeves. At the back the cape is short, while in front the ends are long, with the brushes finishing them. Worn with a gown of gray satin cloth and a poke bonnet of gray trimmed only with gray taffeta ribbons, the complete effect is novel and harmonious, though I suppose that a warm admirer of the original capelet hardly would call it a practical garment for a person of moderate means. But there are simpler uses for fox. An example of which we have in the drawing, which shows the "red" fur of this variety applied as wide collar and deep cuffs to the jacket of a gown of harmonizing brown homespun. The costume is suitable for wear all winter. A hat of snuff-colored tufted taffeta touched up with pipings of snuff-brown velvet suits the brunette wearer. It is said that there are skeptics who doubt the Samson tale of the flaming foxes and the burning fields, on the ground that there were not foxes enough in the world at that time to produce such general conflagration.

To judge from the women's costumes of New York city only, there are enough foxes right in that town to burn up a wide territory. If the foxes were alive and in full possession of their tails. The supply of foxes may or may not be exhausted in this phase of fashion.

It is not the intention to give the impression that fox is worn to the exclusion of other fur. In a season during which the skins of animals are and will be used in costumes extraordinary the fox, perhaps, is the variety most popular, though there are many other sorts of fur in evidence, and rare garments from them which should be spoken of at another time.

Always after the fashions in gowns, coats, hats, etc., for the winter have been settled and women have an idea that they have bought almost everything necessary, there appears in the shops a great quantity of fascinating little accessories of dress that it is simply impossible for a woman who likes pretty clothes to resist. Among these are the different styles of neckwear, the belts, the ornaments to wear in the hair, the new designs in jewelry, and last, but not least, the corsets.

From time immemorial the best dressmakers and tailors in Paris have been particular as to the shape and style of corset their customers shall wear and the most expensive dressmakers absolutely refuse to fit a gown over a corset that is not correct in every particular. It is a recent thing in this country for dressmakers to insist upon any particular make of corsets being used, but this year they be-



gan it, and many of them now are just as arbitrary as the French or English. There is a great deal of sense in this idea, and especially this season, when the lines of the gown are so much more important than they have been, and when the skirts, no less than the waists, have to be fitted so carefully. There is no one make of corset that is demanded by any dressmaker, unless it so happens she is in some way bound to some special corset, but the requirements are that the figures will be made to look as well as possible. There is no limit to the price in expense of corsets, and, of course, when the fad is gone into of having rich brocades used, it can easily be seen what an opportunity there is for charging high prices. But a fine outline is all that is necessary, and a simple finish of lace is in perfectly good taste. The best corsets have plenty of room over the hips, and also above the waist, but are so cut that they can be pulled in tight over the hips. The bust of the corset is made low, but not quite so low as last year, and the elastics now are worn sewed on the front of the corset and also at the sides, and this is a capital plan to keep the corsets in place.

This recipe is suited to those who do not like sweet in puddings:

Work two ounces of butter and two tablespoonfuls of brown sugar together, add a well beaten egg, gradually stir in two tablespoonfuls of treacle and a teaspoonful of milk. Blend a teaspoonful of baking powder with half a pound of flour and gradually mix it with butter, treacle, etc. Place in a greased mould, boil for two hours and serve with any nice sweet sauce.

A new way of blasting rock is to place a cartridge of water in a shot-hole and convert it into steam instantly by electricity. This method is especially applicable in coal mines.

MEN WORK AND FIGHT

PERCHED UPON HIGH STILTS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE.

All Traffic Here is "Klotted." This is Because of the Swampy and Sandy Condition of the Soil—They Cover Long Distances With Little Fatigue.

Stilts are almost as common in use to-day in the famous Landes of France as they were forty years ago, when the hand of man undertook the work of improving the nature of the land, there by changing swamp to meadow and making pastures of what had been deep morass. The extensive strip of land embraced in the territory known as the Landes lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the valleys of the Adour and the Garonne, covering an area of over 800,000 acres. It was impossible to reach the Landes during the winter months in the old days because the intervening regions were flooded and shut off all communication between the Landes and the mainland. Many sections of the Landes are still in the old condition of sand wastes and marsh bottoms, like deserts in their seeming use-



The Shepherd and His Herd and House

lessness. On the other hand, vast tracts of the region have been redeemed in the last half-century. They have been covered with rich, productive soil and occupied by human beings. Vineyards are plentiful where once the rushes swayed in the breeze, and the wine that comes from these has a pleasing flavor that recommends it to the critical French connoisseur. Towns flourish now on land that was sunken meadow forty years ago, and agriculture has the upper hand. The furze-bush covered stretches of land are dotted here and there with straw-thatched huts in which both shepherds and herds take refuge when bad weather threatens. These shepherds constitute a class entirely their own. They are called "lanqueters" in France. Mounted on stilts, they guide their herds over miles of pasture land, for which they have to pay no tax or rent, thanks to a special dispensation granted in the sixteenth century by the sovereign of the country, and which has never been revoked.

The shepherd.

The shepherd is never idle. When his charges are feeding peacefully in some choice bed of fodder he uses his balancing pole as a brace, and thus is able to make an aerial perch for himself, where he sits and knits steadily with long needles as long as the herd is quiet. His winter costume consists of a sort of dolman made of sheepskin, with the hide side outside and the wool side inside. His legs and feet are wrapped in lamb skins. Thus equipped, he can withstand all the rigors of the Mediterranean winter. His summer outfit is as little as possible.

The lanqueters can cover long distances faster and with less fatigue than any other class of athletes, with the exception of bicyclists. They can chase their straying sheep over shallow waterways, swamps and bogs with little or no trouble. They handle their long balancing poles, that add greatly to the picturesqueness of their appearance, with great effect, using it not only for its original purpose as a balance while in motion, but as a brace while resting and a crook in the chase, it having a hook at its end.

Swamps Ignored.

Throughout the sections of the Landes that still remain unredeemed the majority of the male population uses stilts to-day in going from place to place, ignoring swampy spots, which would otherwise be impassable, practically. The still-walkers have tapped many of the little streams that run through the swamps and led them to the lakes and ponds that are now used in the irrigation of the soil on which the pitch pine, cork tree, chestnut and similar trees flourish. The sandy soil of the Landes is well adapted to the culture of such growing, favored as it is by the most delightful climate of France. Spring opens there early in March and from then until late in May rainfalls are frequent and steady. The young forest progresses rapidly under such conditions, and is of benefit to the herders as well. Cattle and sheep find much better fodder on such tracts than on their usual pasture grounds on water-soaked fields. This fact is evidenced particularly in the winter, when the herds find their way to the forest lands and dig their way to the green shoots that spring up around the roots of the trees.

The natives often burn the underbrush in the late fall to insure a finer crop of grass and herbs the following year in soil enriched by the ashes of the fire. The forest often suffers from this process, however. The trunks of the pines are scorched and frequently the lower branches of the trees catch fire, resulting in the destruction occasionally of many acres of pitch pine forest. The pitch pines are ready victims to a fire that has a good start.

Their Manufactures.

The principal industry in the Landes is the manufacturing of such commodities as can be produced from the pitch drawn from the pines as maple syrup is won from the trees of that name in northern climates of America. In that industry the pitch-gatherers do not receive regular wages. They are known as "metayers" in France—laborers who share in the business profits of the employer in the work involved. The employment

makes resin, turpentine and other similar products from the raw material in his factory, and it is in the profits of the manufactured articles that the workmen get their dividends. The pitch-gatherers live in the pine forest in rough, wooden cabins, large enough to accommodate their families. They are a superior lot of workmen and live in clean surroundings. Their income is not great, but sufficient to enable them to live in comparative comfort and lay aside a little money each year. They are good in every sense, energetic and industrious and, above all, decent.

Catching the Pitch.

The first step in the attempt to draw the pitch from the tree is to cut away sections of the bark. That is done usually early in February. Then little earthen receptacles are hung under the exposed places to catch the pitch where the trunk of the tree is cut. The cuts are made once a week after that with a peculiar kind of ax, named "hopchou," with a razor edge. The first year the gutting begins at a point just above the roots and is repeated in a straight line upward to a height of about two feet. Each succeeding year the cutters work thirty inches higher until finally the limit is reached, at twelve feet. The cuts in the trunk are never more than three and a half inches wide, or one-third of an inch deep. To accomplish his work the laborer uses a pair of stilts, made especially for that service. With the use of these a man can tap an average of 300 pines a day. The pines yield their flow of pitch throughout their life of sixty to seventy years, provided they are tapped in the manner described. The cuts are used for five years, and then are allowed to heal up, new ones being made in different parts of the bark.

Common on Stilts.

On least days in the Landes most of the games indulged in are contested on stilts, and it is not uncommon on such occasions to see both the boys and girls in lively round dances and quadrilles, perched high up on the spindly supports. Stilts have been put to many other uses in that region from time to time. Not the least important of these was the elevation of the letter carriers from the difficult surface of the swampy ground to an aerial perch on stilt stilts, with which they performed, and still perform, their postal duties in comfort and with remarkable speed. The authorities of France agree that the development of the Gascony section of that country in the last forty years is due in a large measure to the stilted letter carriers. What the bicycle is to rapid postal delivery in the rural sections of upper France over perfect roads, so are the stilts to the service in the Landes, where the routes lead over sunken meadows.

Stilts in the Army.

Experiments have been made with stilts by the Nineteenth army corps of France in reconnoitering in the Landes. They proved to be successful, and a certain number of soldiers are kept in training for work on stilts at a moment's notice. Most of them are natives of the Landes, young men to the manner born. Miles and miles of military telegraph lines have been erected by the militiamen on stilts in Southern France, and it happens frequently that fords are found by men on stilts in rivers that have to be crossed by troops in going through sparsely settled country.

The pine forests of the Landes are alive with game of the wildest kind and of many varieties. In the long list of wild birds and beasts no more popular victims are found for the hunt than the boars—the fierce and vicious members of the pig family that are often guilty of malicious devastation of poultry yards in the small settlements. The best still runners available are chosen for the boar hunt. They use their long poles as weapons and club their prey to death when



Stilts As Used in the Army.

they chase them to cover. Their apex on the stilts is remarkable, as is evidenced by the fact that they never fall to outrun the wild pigs, once they strike the trail. The boars sink into the soft mud of the swamps and find it hard work to move on out of harm's way while the men on stilts have no such hindrance to bother them. The stilts are safe from the bites and attacks of enraged beasts when they are sitting at close range, because the best the hunter can do is to clear away the hard wood of the stilts, which is proof against their fangs.

In Archaon, a town renowned in Europe as a health resort in winter for persons with weak lungs, races on stilts are regular features of the season. They are conducted by a man named Dornan, the acknowledged champion with the stilts in the Landes. He is the man who made the journey from Paris to Moscow on stilts in March, 1891. He had many obstacles to overcome, particularly in Germany, where the peasants and children, but prevented him from carrying out his programme. The races are run in other Landes towns as well as in Archaon, but the final championship contests always take place in Archaon.

Stilts are by no means uncommon in this country. They are used, not for utilitarian purposes here, but as toys for the boys in one large town. At the kite season, the top season and the "mastic" season are over, and the boys take to the stilts and spend the streets gleefully on their elongated motions. It is so easy to climb the balance and knock of stilts that any boy can learn to use them in a few days.

Security

Capital Security.

Deposits.

Money to Loan.

Sales to Bank.

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